

**Wisconsin VINE  
{Victim Information and Notification Everyday}  
Is now available in Rock County**

**1-888-WI4-VINE (888-944-8463)**

[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

**{WI-VINE notifies crime victims when offenders are released from jail}**

Effective September 29, 2009 . Rock County residents will now have quick access to custody information on offenders in the county jail. The Evansville Police Department will post information about this program at various locations throughout Evansville (City Hall, Eager Fee Public Library, UB & T, etc.) In addition, information will be available at the Evansville Police Department and on the Evansville Police department web page located at: <http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city/services/police.html>

Sheriff Spoden launched the WI-VINE service, an automated service that notifies registered crime victims and other concerned citizens when offenders are released from jail, and also provides around-the-clock access to offender information either by telephone or use of the Internet. In addition to crime victims, the VINE system can be used by family members, neighbors, business owners, law enforcement officers, criminal justice professionals . anyone impacted by crime . who is interested in knowing the location and custody status of criminal defendants and offenders housed in the County jail.

The Rock County Jail will be joining the Marinette, Shawano, Douglas, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Waushara, Door, La Crosse, Monroe and Sawyer County Jails as some of the first jail facilities in the state to activate this valuable victim and public service under a \$1.2m SAVIN Grant (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification) provided to the State of Wisconsin, for use on behalf of the Badger State Sheriffs Association, from the U.S. Department of Justice. The SAVIN Grant supports the start-up, implementation and operation of the VINE service in 70 of the county jails across our state. Outagamie and Dane counties previously acquired the VINE system and have operated it since 1999.

In addition to crime victims, the VINE system can be used by family members, neighbors, business owners, law enforcement officers, criminal justice professionals . anyone impacted by crime . who is interested in knowing the location and custody status of criminal defendants and offenders housed in Wisconsin jails. WI-VINE will provide information about the status of criminal defendants/offenders, 24 hours a day, seven days a week via a toll-free telephone (1-888-WI-4-VINE) or via the Internet at

[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). In addition, victims and others can independently register to receive automated notification when the offender's status changes.

Forty-three states and over 1600 jails throughout the country currently utilize the SAVIN (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification) system to provide automated notifications regarding offender custody status changes. The U.S. Congress has established the goal of a nationwide victim notification system and has provided significant funding through the Department of Justice to advance this effort in the hope of eventually having all fifty states involved.

At this time there are approximately 20 additional county jails in Wisconsin that have also received local approval to participate in the SAVIN Grant to implement the WI-VINE system and will be activating this service during the next few months. Many others will hopefully be coming on board over the next thirteen months. The Rock County Sheriff's Department is pleased to be able to offer this service to our citizens!

Individuals throughout the county who are interested in inquiring about an offender or receiving automated notification of an offender's change in status can call 1-888-944-8463 or log on to [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) and search by an offender's name or booking number to obtain custody information. Those choosing to register for automated notification will be able to register multiple phones and/or e-mail addresses where they will be automatically notified when the offender is released, transferred, escapes from custody or their status changes.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Wisconsin Statewide Victim Notification service (WI-VINE) is a free and anonymous telephone and online service that provides victims of crime and the general public with two important features: Information and Notification. Wisconsin VINE is a service provided by your County Sheriff and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

WI VINE is being implemented across Wisconsin through a SAVIN grant (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification), awarded by U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Please visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) to see which counties have implemented WI-VINE to date. Dane and Outagamie counties have been providing this service since 1999 and 2000 respectively.

VINE monitors the custody status of offenders in Wisconsin's county jails and makes the information available either by phone or online. The information is stored at the VINE Communications Center in Louisville, KY. Information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Wisconsin VINE service is available in **English, Spanish, and White Hmong** and is supported by **24-hour trained operator assistance**.

## **DATA TRANSFER SCHEDULE**

County jail offender information: Every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## **INFORMATION**

Anyone may call Wisconsin VINE to determine the custody status of an offender. Callers only need a touch-tone telephone to use the service. Information is also available online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). To search for offender information through Wisconsin VINE, callers will need to provide either the:

- Offender Name, or
- Offender Identification Number (if known)

Information provided to callers by WI VINE:

- Offender Name
- Offender Number (if searching by name)
- Current Offender Custody Status
- Location of Offender
- Scheduled Release Date (if available)

## **REGISTRATION**

Callers may register with WI-VINE to receive automated notification when there is a change in the offender's custody status. To register for telephone notification, callers will be prompted to provide:

- ♦ the telephone number where they wish to receive notification, including the area code,
- ♦ and select a 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Users may also register one or more phone numbers and or a valid email address online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) for telephone and/or email notification.

When calling WI-VINE, users will be asked to enter the offender's first and last name or the offender's identification number, if they know it. If the offender is located by name, the system will provide the caller with the offender's identification number for future calls. Users will then be given the option to register to receive notification and prompt the caller through the registration process. Using their telephone keypad, users enter and confirm the telephone number where they wish to receive notification calls and choose their PIN.

**If a registered person changes their phone number or email address, they must update their registration with their new information by calling Wisconsin VINE at 1-888-944-8463 or online at www.vinelink.com.**

**When a person is notified of an offender's transfer to another facility, they will be informed that they must re-register with VINE to continue to receive notification.**

## **NOTIFICATION**

Unless otherwise noted, notification calls begin as soon as VINE receives updated records from the county jail. County jail data is updated every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Notification calls are made for the following changes in custody:

### **Custody Status Change**

Release  
Escape  
Return from Escape  
Return to Custody  
Death  
Unsupervised Custody  
Transfer  
Scheduled Release (30 days)

### **Calling Pattern**

Normal  
Normal  
Normal  
Non-Emergency  
Non-Emergency Delay 1  
Normal  
Non-Emergency Delay 2  
Advanced

## **CALLING PATTERNS**

If the system reaches an answering machine or voice mailbox, the notification message is repeated twice and the calls then continue every two hours for the remainder of the call period. If a person answers the call, but does not enter the correct PIN, calls continue every two hours for the remainder of the call period or until the call is answered and the correct PIN is entered. Entering the PIN confirms and stops the calls.

**Normal:** Calls begin immediately and will be made every 30 minutes for 24 hours.

**Non-Emergency:** Calls will be made every 30 minutes between 7:00 am . 9:00 pm for 24 hours.

**Non-Emergency Delay 1:** Calls begin 24 hours AFTER the status change, to allow notification to the offender's family or emergency contact to occur. Calls will be made every 30 minutes between 7:00 am . 9:00 pm for 24 hours or until the call is confirmed.

**Non-Emergency Delay 2:** Calls begin 8 hours AFTER the transfer. Calls will be made every 30 minutes between 7:00 am . 9:00 pm for 24 hours or until the call is confirmed.

**Advanced:** Notification is made 30 days prior to the scheduled release date. Calls will be made every 30 minutes between 7:00 am . 9:00 pm for 24 hours or until the call is confirmed. On the day of the scheduled release, release notification will be made under the normal pattern listed above.

### **Caller ID or Anonymous Call Block:**

Notification calls from VINE will display a telephone number with a 502+ area code so that the notification will not be blocked. This 502 phone number will not be answered when called, but is only used for purposes of getting the notification through the anonymous calls are blocked.

### **Stopping Calls:**

For more information call 1-800-APPRISS ext 1 (1-866-277-7477) and follow the directions to get to a VINE Operator.

For technical assistance, please contact the Appriss Operations Center at 1-866-APPRISS ext. 2.

**Sources:**

**The Rock County Sheriff's Department**

**Pamela J. Brandon, Program Manager**

Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Pamela.Brandon@wisconsin.gov

608-240-5860

More information is available on the Evansville Police Department web page:  
<http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city/services/police.html>